IN 3 ISSUES, IT'S ALL OVER!
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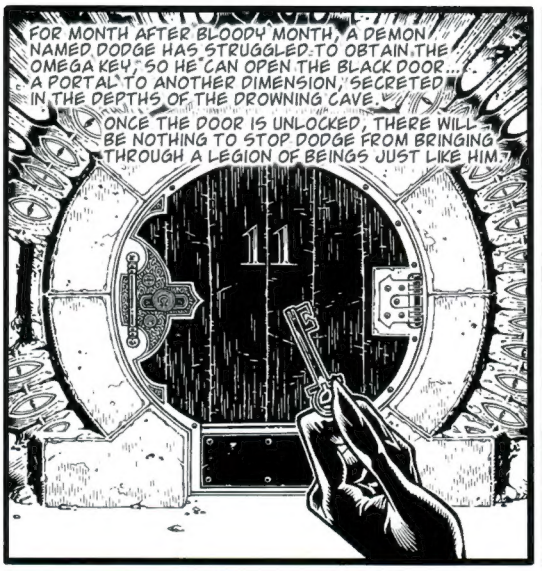
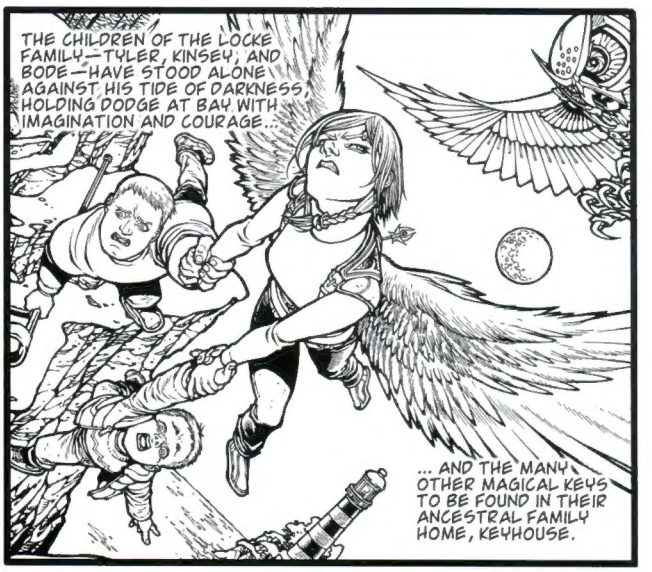
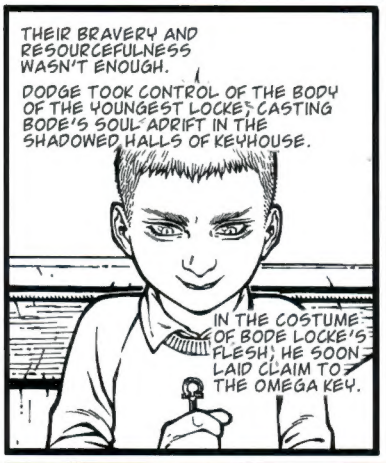

FOR MONTH AFTER BLOODY MONTH, A DEMON NAMED DODGE HAS STRUGGLED TO OBTAIN THE OMEGA KEY, SO HE CAN OPEN THE BLACK DOOR... A PORTAL TO ANOTHER DIMENSION, SECRETED IN THE DEPTHS OF THE DROWNING CAVE.
ONCE THE DOOR IS UNLOCKED, THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO STOP DODGE FROM BRINGING THROUGH A LEGION OF BEINGS JUST LIKE HIM.
11


THE CHILDREN OF THE LOCKE FAMILY—TYLER, KINSEY, AND BODE—HAVE STOOD ALONE AGAINST HIS TIDE OF DARKNESS, HOLDING DODGE AT BAY WITH IMAGINATION AND COURAGE...
... AND THE MANY OTHER MAGICAL KEYS TO BE FOUND IN THEIR ANCESTRAL FAMILY HOME, KEYHOUSE.


THEIR BRAVERY AND RESOURCEFULNESS WASN'T ENOUGH.
DODGE TOOK CONTROL OF THE BODY OF THE YOUNGEST LOCKE, CASTING BODE'S SOUL ADRIFT IN THE SHADOWED HALLS OF KEYHOUSE.
IN THE COSTUME OF BODE LOCKE'S FLESH, HE SOON LAID CLAIM TO THE OMEGA KEY.

ONLY ONE PERSON HAS SEEN THROUGH DODGE'S LATEST DISGUISE: A MENTALLY CHALLENGED CHILD NAMED RUFUS WHEDON.
RUFUS'S ONE ATTEMPT TO RID THE WORLD OF DODGE EARNED HIM A BEATING AND A TRIP TO THE SECURE WING OF A MENTAL INSTITUTION.

ON THE NIGHT OF THE SENIOR PROM, FOLLOWING A LONG STANDING TRADITION, MANY OF THE STUDENTS OF LOVECRAFT ACADEMY HAVE GATHERED IN THE DROWNING CAVE FOR A FINAL REVEL.
BUT DODGE HAS A WHOLE *DIFFERENT* KIND OF PARTY IN MIND...

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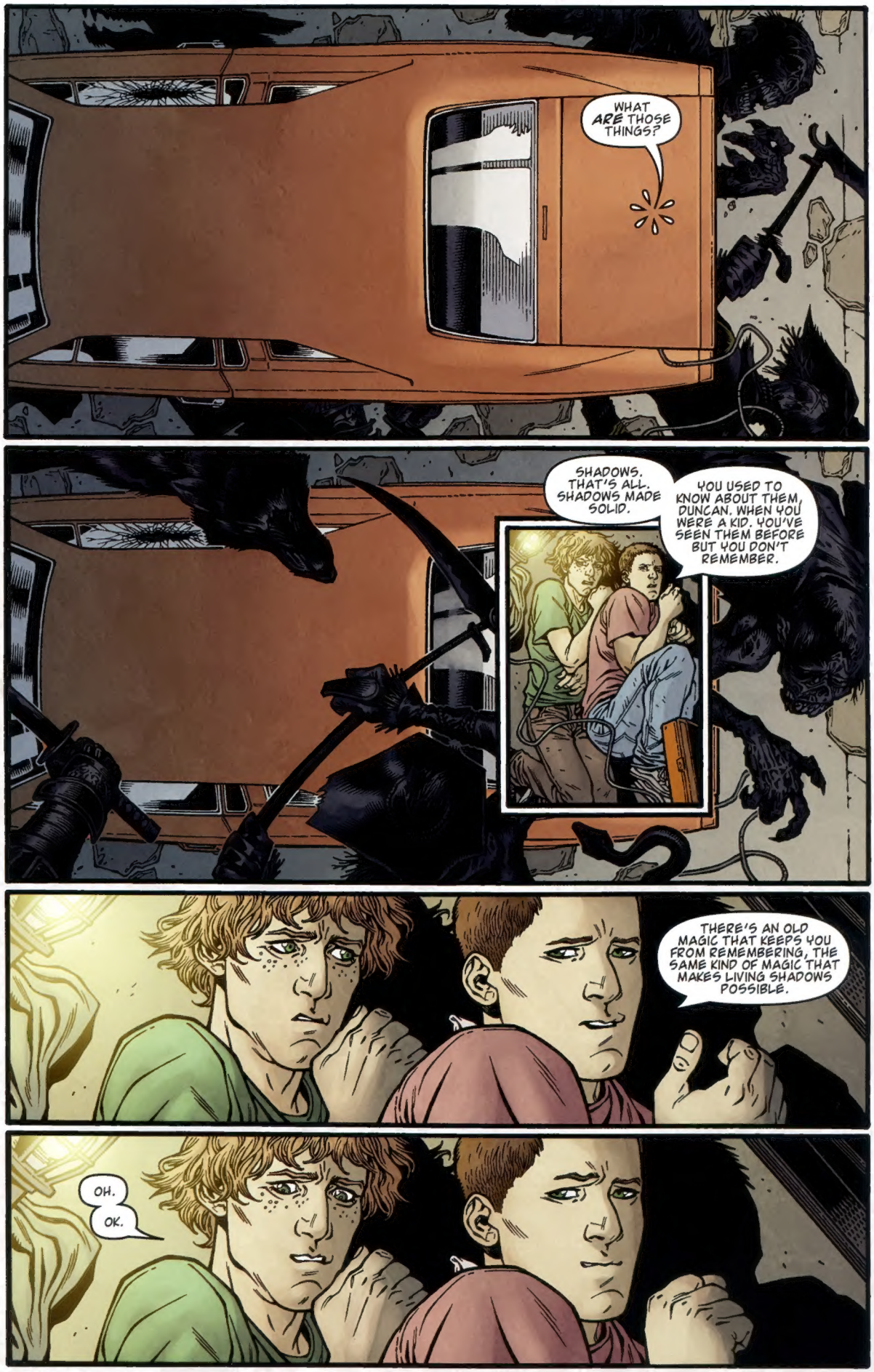
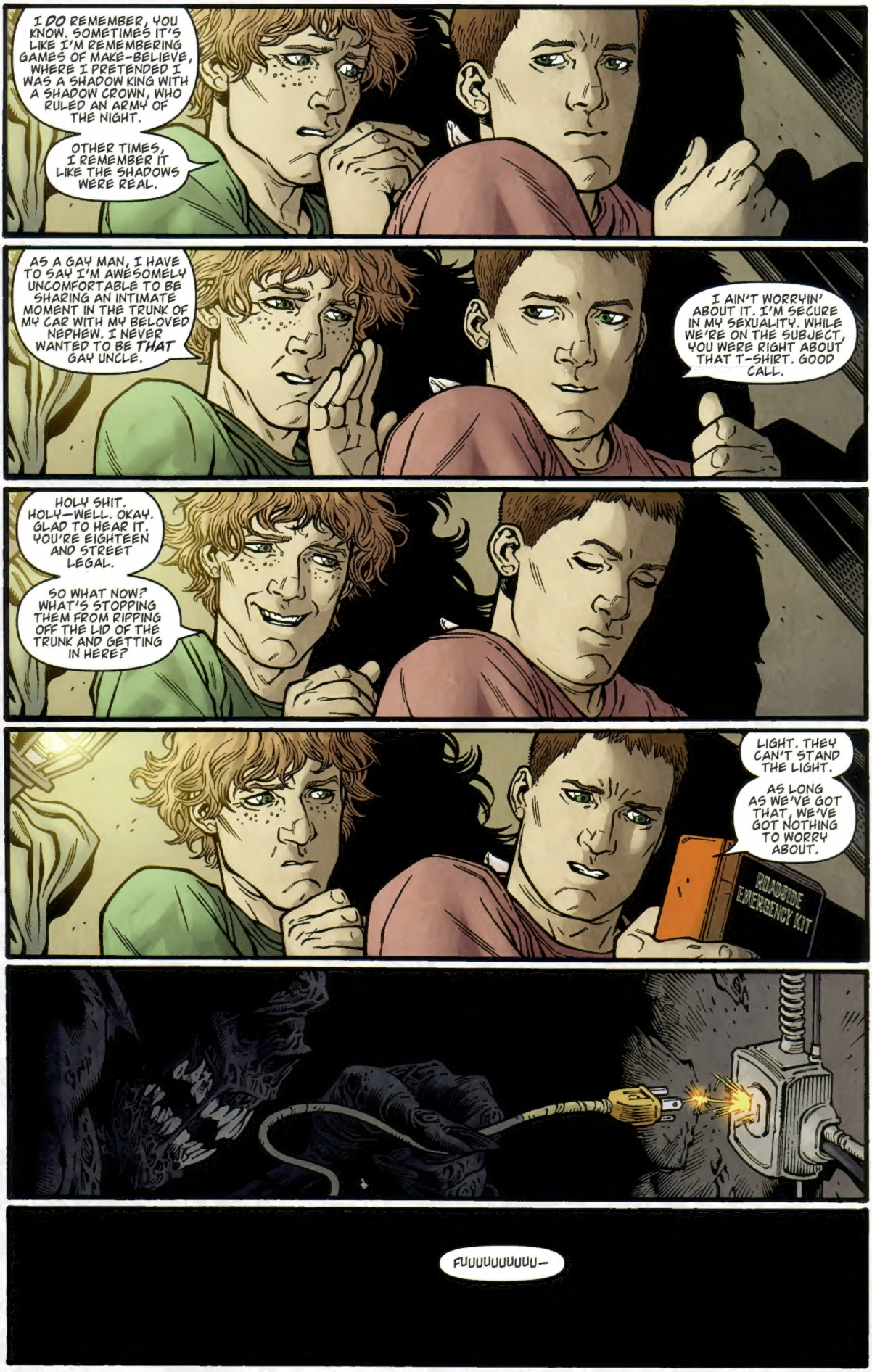
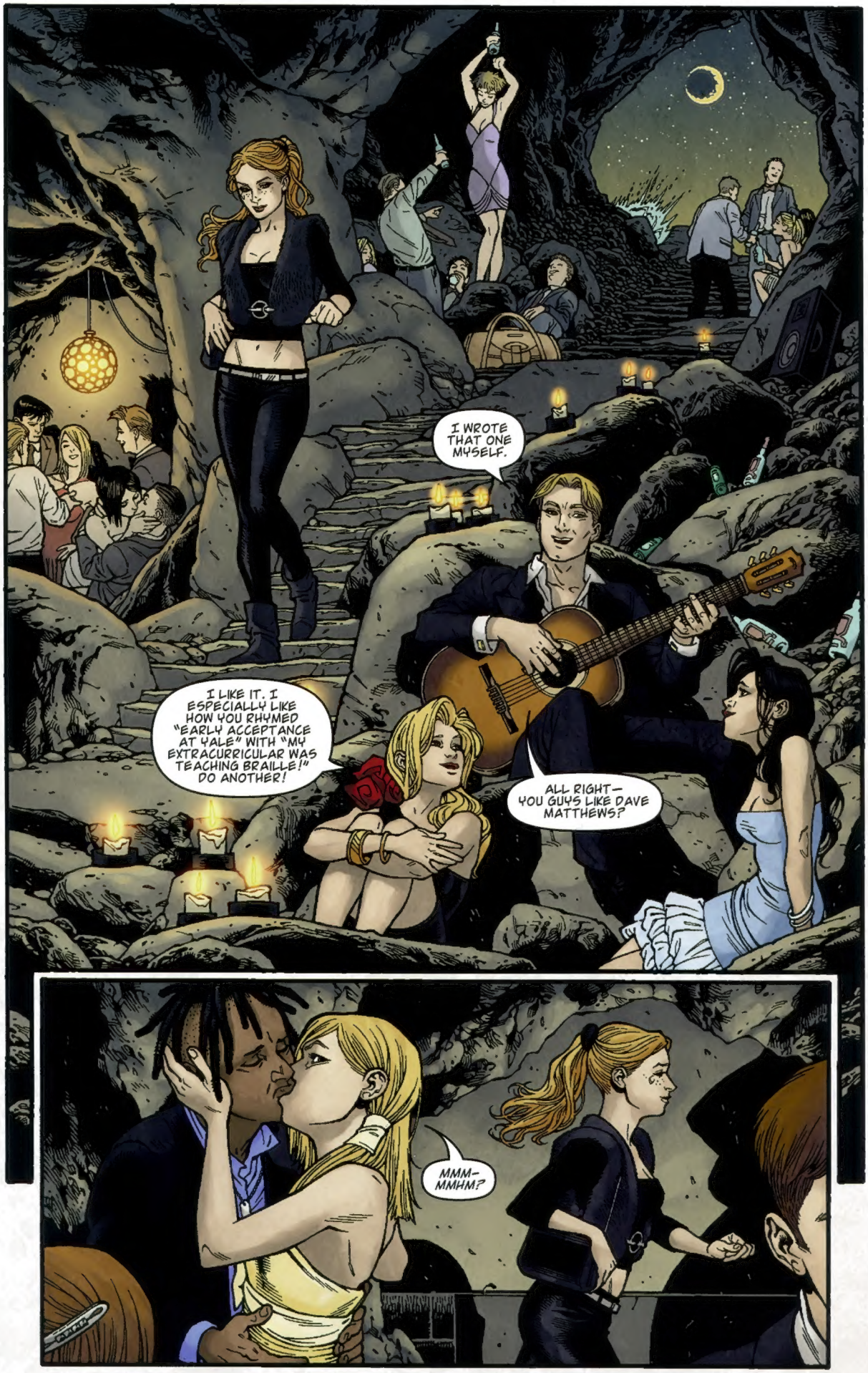
FUCKUS.
FUCKEST.
FFFFOCUS.
OH, GAH.
WISE ZA FUCKIN CUNNER GOD BE SO EYE?
EFF I HAD SOME HELP I UHD CALL FOR HELP...
... BUT THEN I INDDINT HALF TO CALL.
PARADOXES. I ATE EM. I ATE ALL OF EM.
COME ON, MOM.
THE PHONE IS RIGHT THERE. COME ON. PLEASE. I'LL HELP. I'LL HELP AS BEST AS I CAN.
EGGAWAY YOU LI'L FACKIN TRANSPARENTS CASPER BITCH!
YOU ARNED MY SON AND I EMMEN'T TAKING ANYMORE OF YOUR BULLSHIT DANCIN SHAMWOWS. NOPE!
I DRAW THE FACKIN LINE AT LIVIN' SHAMWOWS.
THE FACKIN LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN!

THE FUCK OFF HIM!


WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?
SHADOWS. THAT'S ALL. SHADOWS MADE SOLID.
YOU USED TO KNOW ABOUT THEM, DUNCAN. WHEN YOU WERE A KID. YOU'VE SEEN THEM BEFORE BUT YOU DON'T REMEMBER.
THERE'S AN OLD MAGIC THAT KEEPS YOU FROM REMEMBERING, THE SAME KIND OF MAGIC THAT MAKES LIVING SHADOWS POSSIBLE.
OH.
OK.


I DO REMEMBER, YOU KNOW. SOMETIMES IT'S LIKE I'M REMEMBERING GAMES OF MAKE-BELIEVE, WHERE I PRETENDED I WAS A SHADOW KING WITH A SHADOW CROWN, WHO RULED AN ARMY OF THE NIGHT.
OTHER TIMES, I REMEMBER IT LIKE THE SHADOWS WERE REAL.
AS A GAY MAN, I HAVE TO SAY I'M AWESOMELY UNCOMFORTABLE TO BE SHARING AN INTIMATE MOMENT IN THE TRUNK OF MY CAR WITH MY BELOVED NEPHEW. I NEVER WANTED TO BE THAT GAY UNCLE.
I AIN'T WORRYIN' ABOUT IT. I'M SECURE IN MY SEXUALITY. WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT THAT T-SHIRT. GOOD CALL.
HOLY SHIT. HOLY—WELL. OKAY. GLAD TO HEAR IT. YOU'RE EIGHTEEN AND STREET LEGAL.
SO WHAT NOW? WHAT'S STOPPING THEM FROM RIPPING OFF THE LID OF THE TRUNK AND GETTING IN HERE?
LIGHT. THEY CAN'T STAND THE LIGHT.
AS LONG AS WE'VE GOT THAT, WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
ROADSIDE EMERGENCY KIT
FUUUUUUUUUU—


I WROTE THAT ONE MYSELF.
I LIKE IT. I ESPECIALLY LIKE HOW YOU RHYMED "EARLY ACCEPTANCE AT YALE" WITH "MY EXTRACURRICULAR WAS TEACHING BRAILLE!" DO ANOTHER!
ALL RIGHT— YOU GUYS LIKE DAVE MATTHEWS?
MMM— MMHM?

THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH HAVING A PARTY IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO COME CRAWLING OUT FROM UNDER THE ROCKS.

OH, HI, KINSEY. I WAS HOPING I'D RUN INTO YOU.

UNSAFE!

YOUR BROTHER WILL BE ALONG IN A BIT. BE A SWEETIE, WILL YOU—IF YOU SEE HIM, TELL HIM NOT TO WORRY ABOUT HIS BOXERS. HE'S PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

THEY'RE SUPER-COMFORTABLE.

HELP! SOMEONE HELP!

HELP HELP HELP HELP!

NICE. WHO BROUGHT THE FIRST GRADER?

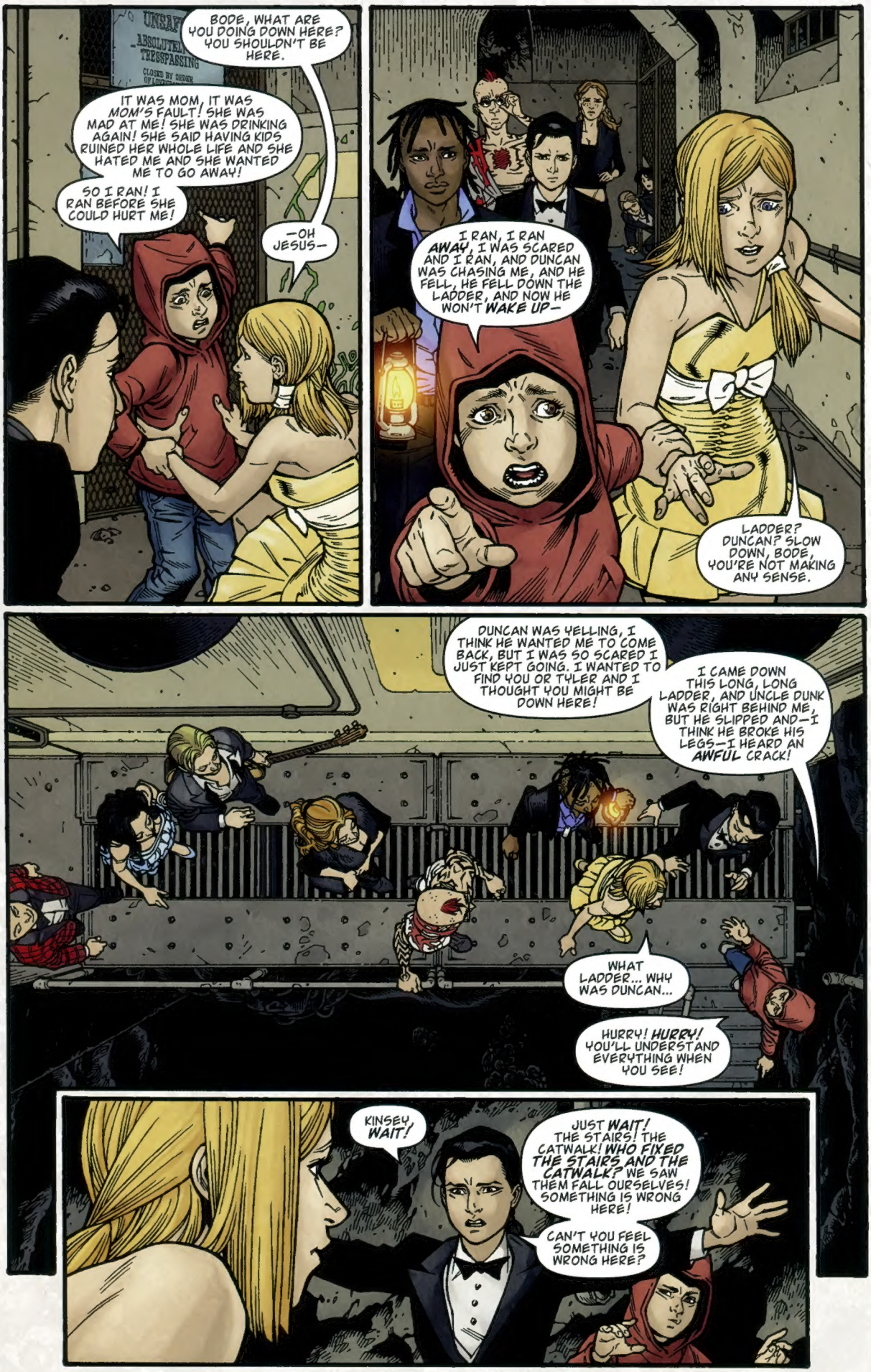
BODE?!?

'EY, MATE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?

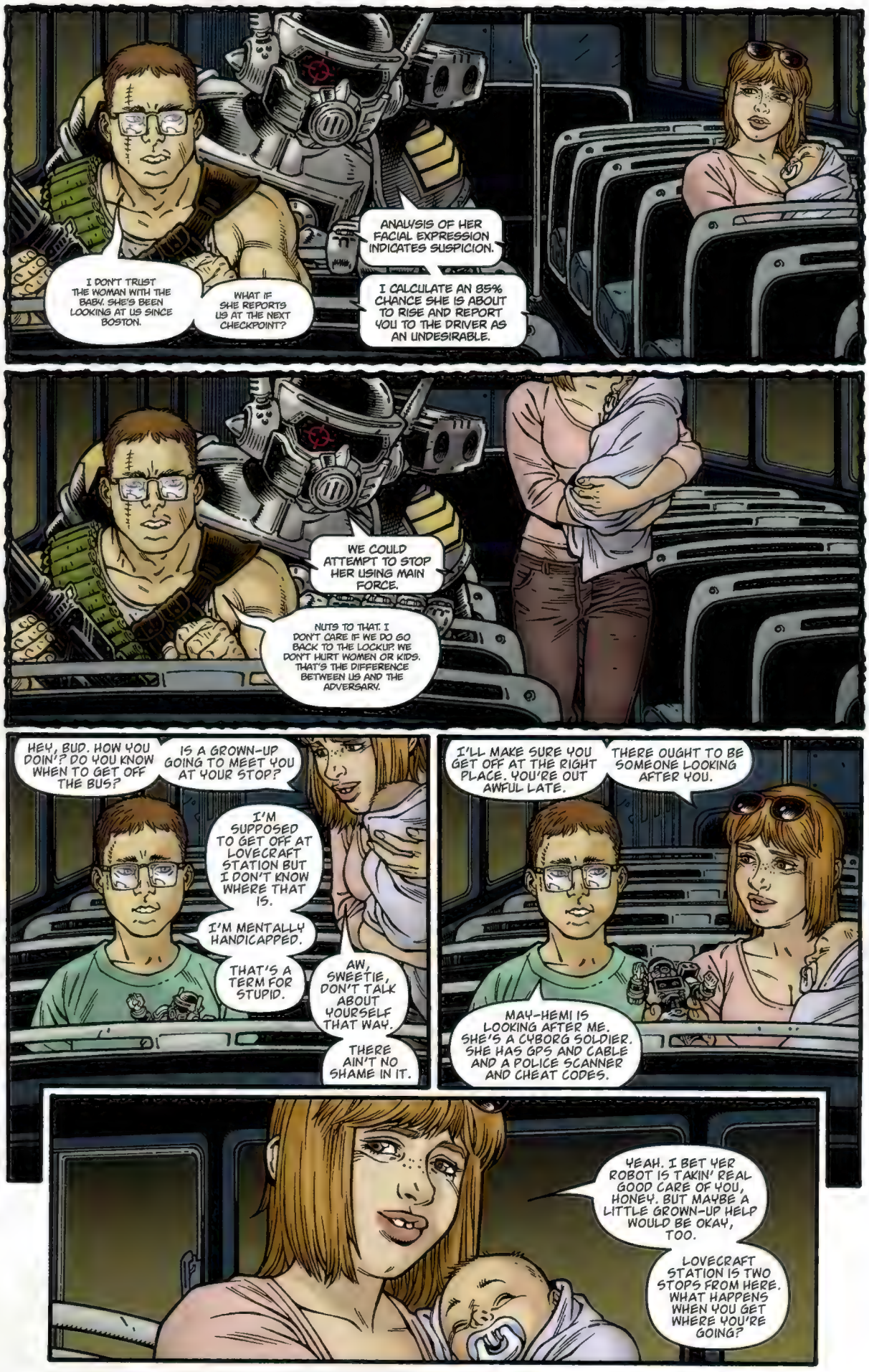
WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE BOY?

YOU KNOW WHAT I'D TELL MYSELF? IF I COULD GO BACK?

TRY AND DO ONE GOOD THING FOR SOMEONE EVERY DAY. JUST ONE. MAYBE I COULD FORM A HABIT.


BODE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE? YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
IT WAS MOM, IT WAS MOM'S FAULT! SHE WAS MAD AT ME! SHE WAS DRINKING AGAIN! SHE SAID HAVING KIDS RUINED HER WHOLE LIFE AND SHE HATED ME AND SHE WANTED ME TO GO AWAY!
SO I RAN! I RAN BEFORE SHE COULD HURT ME!
—OH JESUS—
I RAN, I RAN AWAY, I WAS SCARED AND I RAN, AND DUNCAN WAS CHASING ME, AND HE FELL, HE FELL DOWN THE LADDER, AND NOW HE WON'T WAKE UP—
LADDER? DUNCAN? SLOW DOWN, BODE, YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE.
DUNCAN WAS YELLING, I THINK HE WANTED ME TO COME BACK, BUT I WAS SO SCARED I JUST KEPT GOING. I WANTED TO FIND YOU OR TYLER AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE DOWN HERE!
I CAME DOWN THIS LONG, LONG LADDER, AND UNCLE DUNK WAS RIGHT BEHIND ME, BUT HE SLIPPED AND—I THINK HE BROKE HIS LEGS—I HEARD AN AWFUL CRACK!
WHAT LADDER... WHY WAS DUNCAN...
HURRY! HURRY! YOU'LL UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING WHEN YOU SEE!
KINSEY, WAIT!
JUST WAIT! THE STAIRS! THE CATWALK! WHO FIXED THE STAIRS AND THE CATWALK? WE SAW THEM FALL OURSELVES! SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE!
CAN'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING IS WRONG HERE?

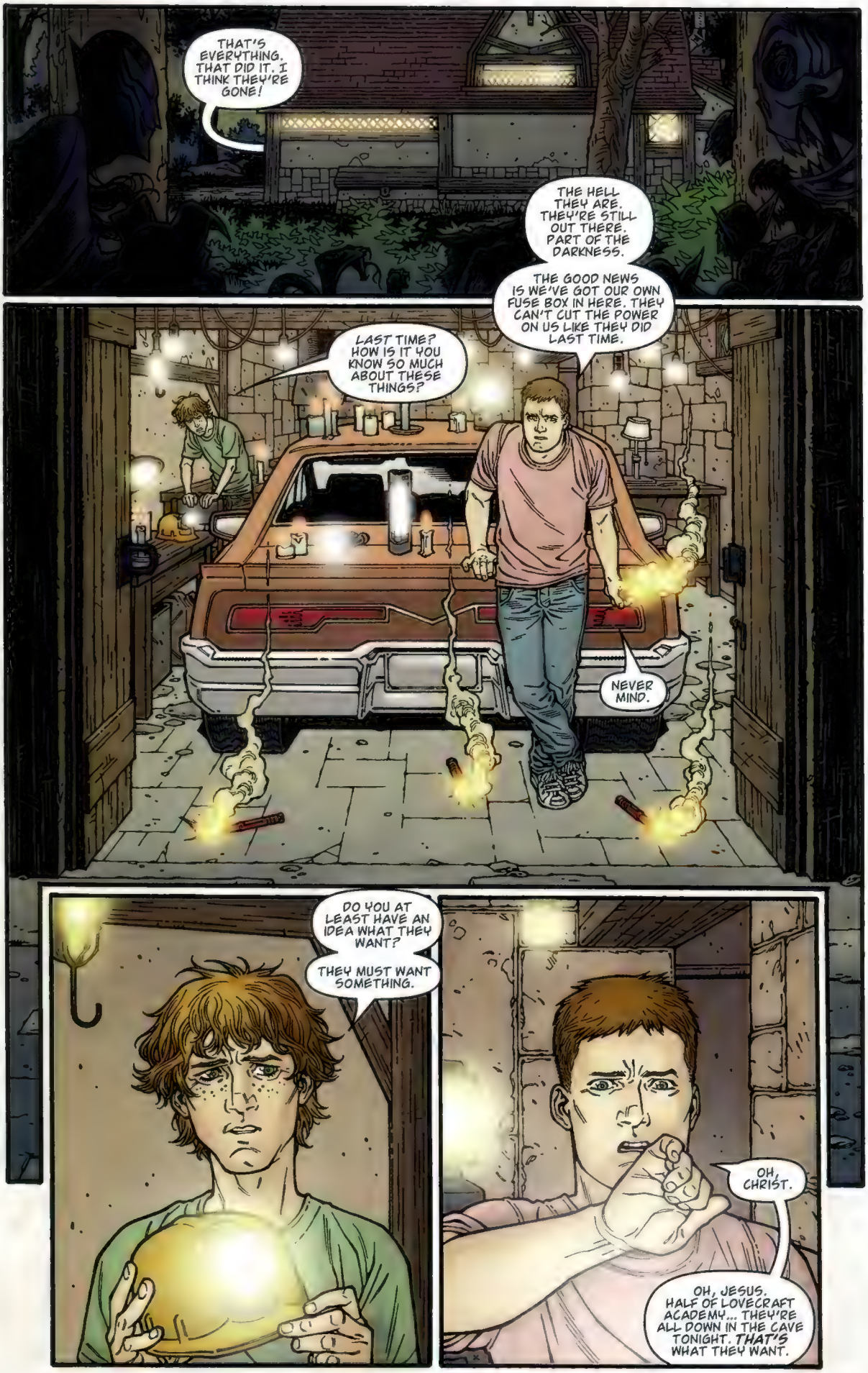
I DID, I FIXED IT! I USED THE SHADOWS! COME ON, IT'S SAFE, BUT WE HAVE TO HURRY, YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME! PLEASE! I DON'T KNOW IF DUNCAN IS BREATHING...
WHERE'D YOU GET THE CROWN OF SHADOWS, LITTLE GUY?
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU USE THE SHADOWS TO BRING DUNCAN UP HERE, ACE?
WHAT THE FUCK DOES IT MATTER WHERE I GOT THE CROWN?
AND I DIDN'T USE THE SHADOWS TO BRING HIM UP HERE BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO MOVE AN ACCIDENT VICTIM, YOU IGNORANT COCKSUCKER!
ACH. I JUST BROKE CHARACTER, DIDN'T I?
TWO MONTHS WITHOUT A GOOF AND THEN AT THE LAST MINUTE...
FUCK IT. LET'S DO IT THE HARD WAY, THEN.


I DON'T TRUST THE WOMAN WITH THE BABY. SHE'S BEEN LOOKING AT US SINCE BOSTON.
WHAT IF SHE REPORTS US AT THE NEXT CHECKPOINT?
ANALYSIS OF HER FACIAL EXPRESSION INDICATES SUSPICION.
I CALCULATE AN 85% CHANCE SHE IS ABOUT TO RISE AND REPORT YOU TO THE DRIVER AS AN UNDESIRABLE.
WE COULD ATTEMPT TO STOP HER USING MAIN FORCE.
NUTS TO THAT. I DON'T CARE IF WE DO GO BACK TO THE LOCKUP. WE DON'T HURT WOMEN OR KIDS. THAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND THE ADVERSARY.
HEY, BUD. HOW YOU DOIN'? DO YOU KNOW WHEN TO GET OFF THE BUS?
IS A GROWN-UP GOING TO MEET YOU AT YOUR STOP?
I'M SUPPOSED TO GET OFF AT LOVECRAFT STATION BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT IS.
I'M MENTALLY HANDICAPPED.
THAT'S A TERM FOR STUPID.
AW, SWEETIE, DON'T TALK ABOUT YOURSELF THAT WAY.
THERE AIN'T NO SHAME IN IT.
I'LL MAKE SURE YOU GET OFF AT THE RIGHT PLACE. YOU'RE OUT AWFUL LATE.
THERE OUGHT TO BE SOMEONE LOOKING AFTER YOU.
MAY-HEMI IS LOOKING AFTER ME. SHE'S A CYBORG SOLDIER. SHE HAS GPS AND CABLE AND A POLICE SCANNER AND CHEAT CODES.
YEAH. I BET YER ROBOT IS TAKIN' REAL GOOD CARE OF YOU, HONEY. BUT MAYBE A LITTLE GROWN-UP HELP WOULD BE OKAY, TOO.
LOVECRAFT STATION IS TWO STOPS FROM HERE. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING?

"WE MARCH."
Welcome To
LOVECRAFT
Massachusetts
You're Home To Stay
3

BODE?
BUT—YOU TRIED TO HURT ME.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I HEAR YOU... BUT I CAN'T TELL WHERE YOUR VOICE IS COMING FROM.
I SEE YOU, FROM THE CORNER OF MY EYE... BUT WHEN I TRY TO LOOK RIGHT AT YOU, THERE'S NOTHING THERE. HOW ARE YOU PICKING ME UP?
YOU DON'T NEED ME TO BE YOUR CRUTCH. YOU DON'T NEED A CRUTCH AT ALL.
DANIEL?
YES? MRS. LOCKE?

SMOKED YOU, FUCKER.
AAAAAA!
LIGHT THIS MOTHERFUCKING JOINT UP—EVERYTHING. EVERY LIGHT. EVERY CANDLE, EVERY FLASHLIGHT. STOKE THE FORGE. EVERYTHING.
THE BRIGHTER THE BETTER.


THAT'S EVERYTHING. THAT DID IT. I THINK THEY'RE GONE!
THE HELL THEY ARE. THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE. PART OF THE DARKNESS.
THE GOOD NEWS IS WE'VE GOT OUR OWN FUSE BOX IN HERE. THEY CAN'T CUT THE POWER ON US LIKE THEY DID LAST TIME.
LAST TIME? HOW IS IT YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THESE THINGS?
NEVER MIND.
DO YOU AT LEAST HAVE AN IDEA WHAT THEY WANT?
THEY MUST WANT SOMETHING.
OH, CHRIST.
OH, JESUS. HALF OF LOVECRAFT ACADEMY... THEY'RE ALL DOWN IN THE CAVE TONIGHT. THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT.

KAVANAUGH! SATURDAY! WHAT HAPPENED? JESUS, WHAT THE FUCK HAPPENED?
THERE'S BEEN A FUCKING CATACLYSM, HASN'T THERE, YOU DUMB GIT? GET GOING! GET EVERYONE OUT! GET HELP!
CLIMB, SCOT, CLIMB!
JACKIE! JACKIE, MY LOVE! JACKIE!
COME ON!
JACKIE.
I HAVE TO GO, MATE.
NOOOOOOOO!

SOMEONE'S HERE... I THINK—YEAH! IT'S THAT DETECTIVE, MUTUKU.
CHRIST, HE WON'T MAKE IT AS FAR AS THE FRONT DOOR. HE'S GONNA GET TORN APART. I'M GOING.
TYLER, NO!
I GOT TO, MAN. STAY HERE. STAY IN THE LIGHT.

BLAM!
TYLER? TYLER—STAY WITH ME.
OH MY GOD.
OH MY GOD, NO!

STOP PUSHING YOU ASSHOLES!
EVERYONE OUT! GO! GO!
WHAT THE FUCK IS THAT?
THOOM!
THOOM!
THOOM!
THOOM!
YEEEE-AAAA!

ΩMEGA

CHAPTER FOUR - HUMAN SACRIFICES

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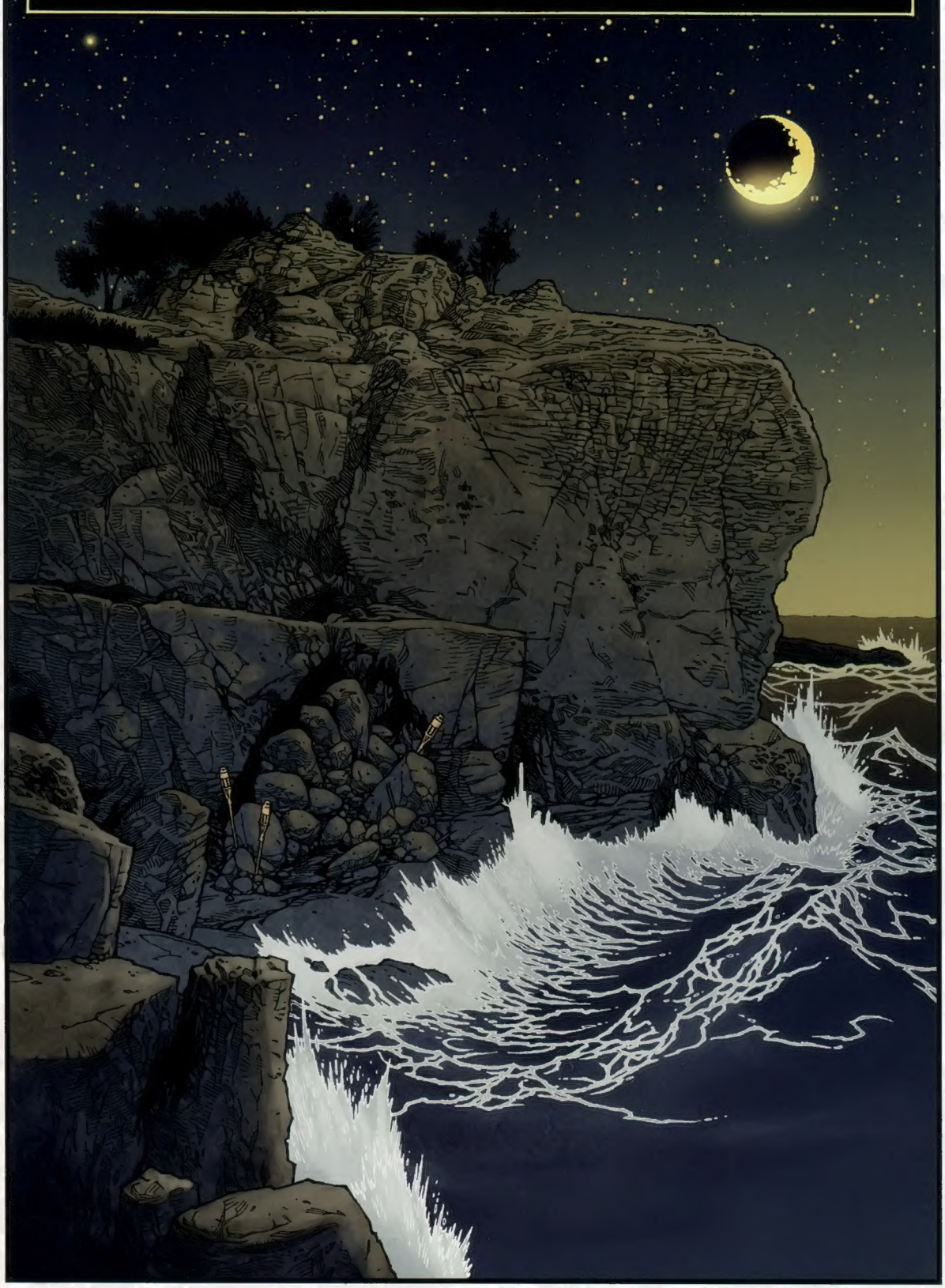
Storytellers: **JOE HILL** & **GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ**

LOCKE & KEY created by Gabriel Rodriguez & Joe Hill



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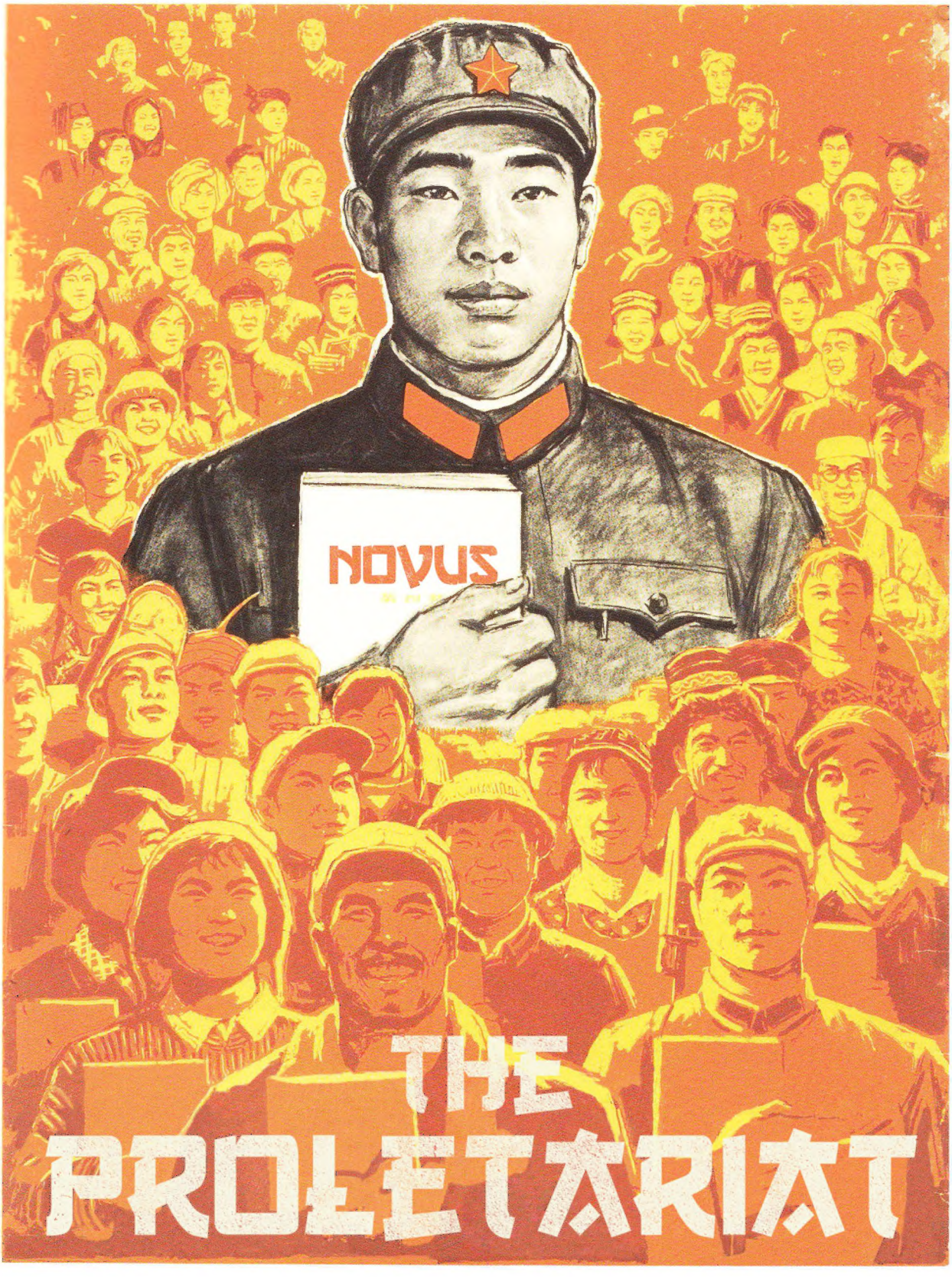
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